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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
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1. Syntex National Corporation produces chemical substances for the use of the tanning, textile and fur industries, and skimming (odpenovaci) oils for the sugar, yeast, distilling, glue, and pharmaceutical industries. After the Communist coup in February 1948, Fistag Ltd. and Kalcium Ltd. in Prague, Housser in Unisek, Boehme and Rudolf companies in Varnsdorf, Jahlenfels and Schoering companies in Usti nad Labem, Primila in Liberec, Standard and Krasl companies in Brno and Russ in Rumburk were confiscated and subordinated to Synthesia National Corporation. When Synthesia was reorganized these companies were removed from its control and formed the basis of Syntex National Corporation. Since that time the Guttmann and Masata companies in Prague, the firm of Jaki and Sterik in Kolin, O.A. Brich Co. in Movo Mosto nad Metuji, and the buildings of the firm of Stolle and Kopke in Rumburk have been added to Syntex. Syntex has a monopoly of the production of auxiliary chemicals and fatty alcohols for the industries mentioned above in all of Bohemia and Moravia. Its counterpart in Slovakia is Petrochema National Corporation in Dubova, which has a similar production program.
2. Fistag Company in Prague was licensed before its confiscation to Boehme Fettchemie in Chemnitz. During the war it was almost completely destroyed, but has since been rebuilt. Its plant includes lead oil sulphurization and enameled fatty alcohol sulphurization equipment and alcohol drying apparatus. The plant has a production capacity of about 5,000 kg per week of sulphurized oil and an equal amount of sulphurized fatty alcohol. Fistag employs about 60 workers; the technical manager is Vaclav Pokorny, a 33-year old former druggist.
3. The Kalcium plant in Prague is an old factory which produces tannery oils and "degras" (oxidized train oil). It has a production capacity of about 15,000 kg of degras and 10,000 kg of sulphurized oils per week. The plant employs about 70 workers and is managed by Vaclav Pokorny, also the Technical Manager of Fistag. The production capacity of neither of these firms is fully utilized. It is planned that they will be removed from Prague and will be united as the basic enterprise for Syntex.

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4. The Heusser plant in Mnisek (051/016) is a former German factory which produced greases, fats and soaps during the war. When it became part of Synthesia it was reequipped for the reduction of coconut oil by metallic sodium to produce fatty alcohols, and for the vacuum distillation of fatty alcohols. The plant is also equipped for the sulphurization of fatty alcohols by the use of chloro-sulphonic acid, for the production of tannery and textile oils and Stauffer fats and with two spraying towers for the drying of sulphurized fatty alcohols, fatty amines, condensates of fatty acids with scissile albumin products, and for the production of powdered sizing products. The fatty alcohols obtained from the reduction of coconut oil are distilled to caprile, laurile and higher fractions which are then sulphurized. The sulpho-caprile fraction is used for the production of foam fire extinguishers, while the sulpho-laurile and higher fractions are used for the production of soaps and shampoos and chemicals for the tanning and textile industries. About 5,000 kg of fatty alcohols can be produced by the plant each week. The capacity of the sulphurization equipment is almost 10,000 kg per week. The larger drying tower has a capacity of 500 kg and the smaller tower of 200 kg per day. About 10,000 kg of Stauffer fats can be produced in one week, and about 2,000 kg of brake fluid for the army are produced per month.
5. The Heusser plant employs between 70 and 80 workers and is managed by the former foreman of Pistag, Sir, a Communist. A German textile expert, Wanda, formerly employed as a dyer with the firm of Leibig in Liberec, is attached to Heusser. The plant covers an area about 100 m by 50 m, and is bounded on the west by the Liberec-Frydlant highway. It consists of a main production building, an office building, the second floor of which is devoted to production shops, a boiler house and three warehouses. The metallic sodium is stored in the open in about 2,000 60-kg metal drums. Also stored outside are drums containing between 20,000 and 30,000 kg of butyl alcohol, propyl alcohol and amyl alcohol, mainly the latter, between 40,000 and 50,000 kg of ethyl alcohol and alcohol ester for the production of brake fluid, and about 10,000 kg of benzol. Between 50,000 and 100,000 kg of coconut oil, 95 percent pure, is also stored at the plant. Since the plant is located at the foot of a mountain and is subject to spring floods, the outdoor storage of metallic sodium, which is explosive when wet, is rather dangerous. In spite of this, only standard fire-fighting equipment is used and the plant is guarded by only about 20 men.
6. The Boehme plant in Varnsdorf was formerly a branch of Boehme in Dresden. It is equipped for the production of textile chemicals by means of chlorosulphonic acid sulphurization. It employs about 35 workers, and is managed by Vyskocil, a nominal Communist. This plant is used to train apprentice workers for Syntex. The Rudolf plant in Varnsdorf, Wallenfels in Usti nad Labem, Russ in Rumburk (051/F78) and the auxiliary chemicals department of Schoering in Usti have been abolished. In the buildings of the former firm of Stolle and Kopke in Rumburk and Boletice Syntex has established the production of soluble starch and powdered sizing. This plant employs about 30 workers and is equipped with eight roller dryers, which have a capacity of about 300 kg per day. The Guttman plant in Prague, which produced tanning chemicals and pancreatic enzymes, has been abolished and its production transferred to the Heusser and Primila plants. The firm of Jakl and Sterik in Kolin was attached to Syntex for the production of tanning chemicals and skimming oils. This production will probably be transferred to another Syntex plant and Jiri and Sterik will become subordinate to Rafinerie National Corporation since it produces elain (sic), stearin, glycerin, and automobile oils. This plant employs a total of about 140 persons and produces a total of about 1,500 tons of various products per year.
7. The Standard and Krasl plants in Brno employ a total of about 60 persons. They produce chemicals for the textile industry, larding and fulling oils, perfumes and cosmetics. The plants' annual production capacity is about 1,000 tons; this capacity is, however, not fully utilized and the plants' joint manager, Ing. Beno, is trying to forestall their abolishment. The former firm O.A. Brich in Nova Mesto nad Metuji (051/G92) was detached from the nationalized cooperative Jipo in August 1950 and subordinated to Syntex. This company was, before it became part of Syntex, the largest independent plant in Czechoslovakia producing tannery and textile oils and chemicals. In order not to be forced to turn over to Syntex the company's formulas, the technical manager of Brich fled the country. The annual production capacity of Brich is about 700 tons of oils and chemicals for the tanning and textile industries, about 10,000 kg of boring compounds and cooling oils, about 50,000 kg of various types of glues, largely for the shoe industry, about 60,000 kg of plastics and varnish softeners, about 10,000 kg of carboxyl-alkyl-cellulose for textile printing, and about 10,000 kg of waterproofing compounds.

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6. Primila plant in Liberec, which was formerly a factory for the production of various soaps, now produces bacterial ferments and textile desizing substances. The ferments were discovered by Weinfurt, a former Primila manager, to have healing effects when applied to skin diseases. Experiments are being conducted at the plant and in the clinic of the Hradec Kralove General Hospital to determine the actual effects of the ferments, and the diseases which can be beneficially treated with them. The production of pancreatic enzymes and malt desizing substances has been transferred to Primila from the Guttman plant in Prague. Primila now produces enough of these items to cover the entire needs of the Czech tanning and textile industries and eliminate the need to import such items as Oropen, Diastafor and Dialose, which were formerly purchased from German firms. The plant employs about 60 workers and is managed by Ing. Viktor Mansfeld, a 33-year old chemist and a nominal Communist.
9. A newly established research laboratory in Liberec, which is subordinate to the Czechoslovak Chemical Enterprises, has been attached to Syntex National Corporation. This laboratory is headed by Jiri Kubias, a non-Communist chemist, who was for several years employed in the laboratory of Pistag Company in Prague. He was responsible for the establishment of the production of fatty alcohols by Syntex. Also attached to the research institute is Dr. Mezl, a former chemist at the Schicht plant in Usti nad Labem. Although poorly equipped and understaffed, this laboratory has had some success in finding substitutes for chemicals and oils which formerly had to be imported.

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